

A note from your Southeast PARC (Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) Co-Chairs, Gabrielle Graeter and Betty Crump, and Jeff Hall, the North Carolina PARC Coordinator. As those of you that attended are aware, our 2009 Annual Meeting, held at Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina, was a great success. We had excellent attendance, with about 160 registrants, an impressive number of attendees in light of the economic climate. It was an action-packed agenda with 20 speakers, 6 workshop sessions, 9 task teams, 4 field trips, and plenty of time for networking and socializing!

**A big thanks goes out to our sponsors** – the North Carolina Herpetological Society, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Highlands Brewing Company. We were also very impressed with the success of the Silent Auction raising over \$1000, and we appreciate that so many of you were willing to go above and beyond with contributions of auction items and with opening your wallets for the PARC cause! It was tremendously helpful that people stepped it up for the silent auction as it was more difficult acquiring sponsorships this year.

We received a lot of good feedback from meeting participants about the utility of having a joint meeting of NCPARC and SEPARC. Those in NCPARC indicated that it was great to have a chance to see what the rest of the region was doing, and many people in SEPARC expressed interest in learning more about how NCPARC functions and what has been accomplished in NC. Two states in the Southeast, **Georgia and Alabama, have recently indicated an interest in forming state PARC chapters**, so this is exciting news!

The poster session was a great success, with about 100 people in attendance and nearly 40 posters set up throughout the duration of the meeting. The poster session is an integral part of what PARC is about, allowing everyone to share their research and education ideas for herp conservation.

Both NCPARC and SEPARC Task Teams met and were open to all meeting attendees. The returning NCPARC task teams that met included: Diamondback Terrapins and Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes. SEPARC had the following task teams meet: Eco-friendly Roads, Development, Reintroduction/Repatriation/Relocation, Invasive Species, Disease/Pathogens/Parasites, as well as a discussion group on Effective Outreach and Education. For the SEPARC task teams, a summary of each meeting will be posted online shortly.

Once again, John Jensen, with the help of Jeff Beane, Sean Graham, and Mark Bailey, spearheaded the incredibly challenging and entertaining Herp Quiz for the Friday evening social. We also had the honor of witnessing a stellar performance of the soon to be famous “Froggy Bottom Boys” band!

We had a **very productive SEPARC Business Meeting** at the close of the meeting on Saturday evening and many people stayed in order to participate in this meeting. The level of enthusiasm at the meeting is inspirational, but we would like to see this carry on throughout the year in terms of seeing SEPARC make a real difference in herp conservation! This will mean more involvement from YOU, and there are many different ways to do this, including helping with task team products and offering to serve in support roles. At the business meeting, we made great

strides in making some important decisions for how to bring more support and structure to SEPARC. Two members graciously offered to serve as our **new SEPARC Treasurer (Zach Felix of Reinhardt College) and Secretary (Bill Sutton of Alabama A&M University)**. **A big thanks goes out to Karan Bailey, who has done an outstanding job as the Treasurer for 4+ years! A big thanks to our most recent past Secretary, LeAnne Leftwich, is due as well! Thank Karan and LeAnne for the time you have dedicated to SEPARC!**

At the business meeting, there was general consensus that SEPARC would benefit greatly by having the guidance of a team of enthusiastic members. To this end, we voted to **form a SEPARC Steering Committee**. The first task of this group will be to determine the committee's roles. An email will be sent out soon requesting interested persons to contact us about this. Another major decision made was to hold an election for co-chairs every year at the annual meeting for one co-chair, with each co-chair serving for 2 years, after which they serve on the steering committee for one year to provide support to the co-chairs. It was also determined that a meeting host should be found for each year and that the meetings will be planned by the host and a meeting committee that they form, rather than the co-chairs. The minutes from the SEPARC business meeting will be posted on our website soon ([www.separc.org](http://www.separc.org)).

**Please mark your calendars now! The 2010 SEPARC meeting will be held on February 18-21, 2010. The site is still to be determined, so please contact Gabrielle if you are willing to host either the 2010, 2011, or 2012 SEPARC meeting.**

Thanks to all of our speakers, workshop leaders, task team leaders, and everyone else that helped out at the meeting. And a big thanks goes out to all of you for your attendance and active participation in SEPARC, as well as your participation in the post-meeting evaluation!

We want to hear from you! Contact us if you have any questions or suggestions at any time.

Sincerely,  
Gabrielle Graeter and Betty Crump (SEPARC Co-Chairs)  
Jeff Hall (NCPARC Coordinator)